



Chelmsford Amateur Radio Society

Established 1936

Affiliated to the RSGB Club Call Sign: G0MWT
President: Carl Thomson, G3PEM Chairman: John Bowen G8DET
Treasurer: Brian Thwaites G3CVI Vice Chairman Martyn Medcalf G1EFL



Newsletter No 550

Web Address: www.g0mwt.org.uk

January 2012

SEASONS GREETINGS TO ALL OUR READERS

**This Month's Meeting – Tuesday, 3rd January, 7.30pm at the Marconi Club
" What is NOT covered on the Foundation Courses".**

This Meeting is aimed at the many newly Licenced Radio Amateurs who maybe a bit rusty about Operating Amateur Radio equipment.

It is intended to be a Practical, Educational and FUN Evening.

CARS Members will have a table set up to show how "The "Earth to your Station can radiate", Another table will demonstrate "How to tune an Aerial – using a Manual MFJ and Auto Tuners", while another will have a Transmitter to show "How NOT to set-up an Amateur Radio Station".

How to use an ordinary incandescent electric light bulb for a *Dummy Load* will be demonstrated.

If you feel a little hesitant about Operating – come along and have a go with experienced Helpers to assist – no-one is going to take the Michael out of you.

A jolly interesting evening is predicted.

CARS will have its Famous Raffle run by Peter Graves, G0KSJ.
Please purchase a Raffle Ticket (or two!) - you may win a prize.

Dates for your Diary

Sat 17 th December	W&S Christmas Open Day
Wed 11 th January	Committee Meeting, Danbury Village Hall, 7.30pm. All welcome. Back to Wednesdays
Thursday 12 th Jan	CARS Foundation Course starts in Danbury Village Hall.
Tues 10, 17 & 24 th Jan	CARS Net Nights starting at 8.30pm local.
Sun 5 th February 2012	Canvey Rally at The Paddocks, Canvey Island. CARS, ERG & RSGB have Tables.
Tues 7 th February	CARS Meeting – Enigma Cipher Machine/BITX20 Transceiver Project.

To be/remain a Member of CARS, send a Cheque for £12 – Adult Membership (16s and under are FREE) to:- Mr Brian Thwaites, 118 Baddow Hall Crescent, Great Baddow, CHELMSFORD, CM2 7BU.
If you would like a receipt, please enclose a stamped addressed envelope with a 2nd class stamp.

Thanks to Geoff, G7KLV for sending the postal Newsletters – could it go by E-Mail?
Please inform Geoff, G7KLV by E-Mail of any changes to your callsign, postal or eMail address, etc. Email him on g7klv@g0mwt.org.uk Only by you sending Geoff your E-Mail address, can we ensure **WE** get it right!

Club Nets: Tuesdays 8.30pm: (2nd) GB3DA: (3rd) GB3ER: (4th) 1.947/50: (5th) 28.375. All MHz +/- QRM.
Net Controller for Jan – Colin, G0TRM. Thanks to Patrick, M0XAP for December.

Last Month's Meeting:-

“Radio Control of Models by Chelmsford Model Flying Association Member, Chris Collins.

After the opening announcements Chairman John introduced Chris Collins from the Chelmsford Model Radio Association and said he had attended Duxford a few months ago and saw an Apache helicopter from the Army Air Corp doing a “Wing-Over” and asked “can a Model Helicopter loop the loop?”

Chris thanked John for inviting the Association Members to come and talk to CARS about Radio Control of Models – in particular Dave Saban and Gavin Murrell (Members who supported Chris) were heavily into helicopters and he would answer that question later on.

Chris went through the past stages in the hobby, which were very similar to the Radio Amateur. In the very early days one had to construct both the transmitter and receiver from scratch after that came construction from kits and finally professionally constructed models complete with radio installed and working from “being unpacked from the box”. Dave demonstrated the control that can now be achieved by flying an indoor electric helicopter around the end on the room (but not over the audience). Later, in response to a question, he said they did take it one day onto their flying field but it went one way only - with the wind! Only on a completely wind-free day would it fly under control.

The 27MHz band was the original frequency using AM, but interference from the CB fraternity caused them to move to a dedicated 35MHz frequency. Nowadays they have migrated to 2.4GHz where they are using Pulse Code Modulation and digital encoding with 100mWatts of TX power.

CAA rules mean that to fly the more powerful models they have to go out into the countryside where they are well away from computers and WiFi equipment so they now enjoy interference free control for the very first time.

Models were originally made from sculptured Balsa Wood, Polystyrene and varnished covering (paper, silk and nylon fabric) but now the use of Carbon Fibre and Aluminium has revolutionised and reduced the prices of the hobby. It also means that in the event of a forced landing much less of the model is damaged.

While Chris was telling us the above he was showing the large audience his large helicopter.

At the opposite end of the room CARS set up another screen, digital projector and connected it to Dave's computer where it ran a very realistic Flight Simulator to train persons on how to use the Model Controller – if they made a mistake and the model was seen to crash – no damage was actually done – wonderful.

Engines were discussed. Small petrol and diesel (Glow Plug) had given way to electric, which can even produce 1.6 Horse Power! A picture of small Jet Engines were also shown but these are really for professionally made models for the film industry and cost thousands of pounds.

During the Break warm Mince Pies and Shortcut Pastry was enjoyed having been prepared by Dave Bolwell, David and Myra Davis – thanks - it was appreciated by all.

SEARS Member, Luke pulled the winning tickets out of the Raffle basket organised by Peter, G0KSJ with support from Colin, G0TRM – thanks to all who donated lovely Raffle Prizes – much appreciated.

Chris resumed his presentation by showing another Club Member who not only flies his helicopter up-side-down but makes a habit of using it to cut grass! A Speed Record for a helicopter was also shown at 260kph – it was really motoring.

Thank you Chris, Dave and Gavin - a fascinating presentation nicely put over by three experienced modellers.

CARS Merchandising Manager, Martyn, G1EFL brought three CARS Mugs, which duly presented to remind them of their evening with CARS.

Thanks to Colin, G0TRM for doing the Sound - without which little would have been heard.

John G8DET

CARS Christmas Lunch – Saturday, 3rd December 2011.

CARS organised its traditional Christmas Lunch for paid-up Members and invited guests at the Lodge Country Inn, near Battlesbridge. As we have a number of CARS Members who live well south of Chelmsford (such as around the Canvey Island region) the Committee felt that a venue towards the middle of the A130 might be advantageous. We were in the Conservatory on our own and it was very nice. Lodge Country Inn is really in the middle of nowhere but only one Member had trouble finding it – a couple of SatNavs brought the car into the back entrance! Post Code: SS11 7QT. Tel: 01245 320060.

It was a three Course Meal, which began with a range of Starters, followed by Turkey or Fish or Gammon. A range of mouth-watering Sweets was followed by Coffee, Mints and Mince Pies.

Christmas Poinsettias were given to Val and Martyn, G1EFL for organising the Lunch and preparing such nice Tickets and Myra and David Davis for their efforts at CARS many events where they meet to public.

We had a great Christmas Raffle with lots of prizes donated by Members - £80 was raised which will be divided between Farleigh Hospice and Macmillan Cancer Support.

This Month's Radio Sport (Contests) - All in BST (Local times)

08 January – RSGB AFS - CW – 14:00 to 18:00 UTC

7/9 January – ARRL, RTTY – 24 hrs

14 January – RSGB – AFS – SSB – 14:00 to 18:00 UTC

27/29 January – CQWW 160M – CW – 48 hrs

For further information please email Steve G4ZUL contests2011@q0mwt.org.uk

Steve, G4ZUL

CARS Propagation Forecast for this Month.

Asia: Dhahran	around 14:00 on 28.0 MHz for 96 percent of days, with fair signals.
Oceania: W Samoa	around 12:00 on 18.1 MHz for 79 percent of days, with poor signals.
Africa: Johannesburg	around 20:00 on 10.1 MHz for 86 percent of days, with poor signals.
S. America: Rio de Janeiro	around 08:00 on 10.1 MHz for 85 percent of days, with poor signals.
N. America: Saskatoon	around 18:00 on 14.0 MHz for 78 percent of days, with poor signals.

Reports are reaching CARS that 10 Metres is doing great at the moment.

Gwyn, G4FKH

Essex Repeater Group 2011 AGM – Thursday Dec-8

Following a delay from October until after the training programme had finished at Danbury Village Hall, the Essex Repeater Group held its first AGM since the sad passing of ERG's Chairman, Mike Wheaton, G4ZPE Zipy back in March. Despite cold wet weather a very reasonable turnout heard accounts of an eventful year and plans for 2012. Norman M0FZW ran a successful raffle. The new committee includes Murray, Clive, Norman, Peter G1FOA, and Mark M0IEO as the new Chairman. Details are on the updated ERG Website at: <http://www.essexrepeatergroup.org.uk/> Support the repeater group with donations or see us at Canvey Rally.

Murray, G6JYB

CARS Training in 2012

CARS first 2012 **Foundation Course** is starting on Thursday 12th January until 16th February. This course will be CARS 25th (yes Silver Jubilee) and also marks 10 years since we began!

CARS next **Intermediate Course** begins on Thursday, 15th March and runs until end of May. Another Foundation course is scheduled for after the summer in September

More information at: <http://www.q0mwt.org.uk/training/>, which also has the dates for all courses in 2012. Please register your interest with **Clive G1EUC**.

President Jottings – January.

As I am scribing this before Christmas I am reflecting on a wonderful year CARS has had, both from the activities arranged and the Society Meetings, we must thank the Committee for all their efforts. Whilst on *Votes of Thanks*, for those of you that attended the last Meeting we must thank our Chairman, John for supplying the mince pies. The Radio Control Model presentation was excellent, which was organised by Mark, M0IEO.

Looking towards the New Year now the Sun seems to be producing some decent Sunspots. HF conditions should allow some decent DX to be worked, whilst the occasional Solar Storm should improve conditions for the VHF operators. On the subject of HF, our 80m activity period will be towards the end of January and the Rules are now available. I stress it is NOT a Contest; you are just required to have a short QSO with the other station. As this is the first 2012 newsletter may I wish you all a **Happy New Year** and plenty of Operating on all bands.

Carl, G3PEM. President

CARS - Net Controllers for 2012.

Patrick, M0XAP will be Net Controller for December, with Colin, G0TRM Controller for January, (with help from Mark, M0IEO for the third Tuesday which is UHF). Geoff, G3EDM is listed for February and August, and Colin again for July with Patrick in June. Mark has kindly said he will be a Relief Net Controller for VHF and UHF but lives too far from some Members to manage HF.

Colin, G0TRM

Offers to Control the other Months would be welcome. Come on, please – put something back into YOUR Society. Just try doing ONE week. You can contact The Editor or any Committee Member.

John, G8DET

Thanks for the Support

Hi John, thank you for asking the Members if they could help me get to the CARS Meeting. It was great to get picked up on Tuesday night by George Civil, G0LKY, to catch up with people I knew and meet new Members. I don't get to go out or socialise very often so it was a particularly special night for me. Thank you to everyone involved.

I see from the emails going around that Internet and WiFi security are a concern to most Members. As such, I would like to offer a discount of 5% to any CARS members who make a purchase from my Web Shop which sells Antivirus and security products. The site is <http://www.ixcg.com/shop> and if they contact me on nbown@ixcg.com before or after making a purchase then I'll make sure they get their discount.

Nick Bown, M6BWN, Managing Director IXCG Limited. Tel: 020 3051 1787

27th Canvey Rally - 5th Feb 2012

CARS and ERG are pleased to support SEARS and to be invited to attend the 2012 Canvey Island Rally on Sunday, 5th February at: The Paddocks, Long Road, Canvey Island, SS8 0JA. Open at 10.30am.

Patrick is co-ordinating items from CARS to be sold there. Contact him on: xaps@aol.com

Advanced Licence Examination

Eight candidates sat the Advance exam at Danbury Village Hall on 5th December. Congratulations to all who passed and thanks to all involved.

And Finally:-

John G8DET edited this edition. Material by Trevor M5AKA; Steve G4ZUL; Gwyn G4FKH, Murray G6JYB, Colin, G0TRM; Nick, M6BWN and Carl G3PEM.

Closing date for the next Newsletter – Saturday 21st January 2012.